

RUSSELL D. FEINGOLD
WISCONSIN

506 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-5323
(202) 224-1280 (TDD)
feingold.senate.gov

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING
DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4904

March 11, 2003

The Honorable
Donald H. Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I write regarding the effect that the ongoing deployments of United States military personnel to the Persian Gulf region and elsewhere and the continuing fight against terrorism and the prospect of war with Iraq are having on our men and women in uniform and the families that they are leaving behind. There can be no debate about the dedication of our troops and their devotion to our country, or the honor that they do us through their sacrifice. But we must not lose sight of the sacrifice that is made by their families.

I have heard from many of my constituents about the stress of having a member of their family deployed into harm's way. Some of my constituents are facing the latest in the a series of multiple activations and deployments for family members who serve our country in the National Guard and Reserves. Others are seeing their loved one off on his or her first deployment. All of these families share in the worry and concern about what awaits their relatives and hope for their safe and quick return.

I would appreciate any information you may have about appropriate counseling and support services provided by the Department to help these families cope with their loved one's deployment or pending deployment and the associated anxieties. Please include a discussion of who is eligible for these services, where these services are offered, and the link to any related information that is available on the Internet. I urge you to make every effort to include the families of National Guard and Reserve personnel in these programs. We owe it to our men and women in uniform to make every effort to support their families while they are serving our country.

As you know, many of the dedicated men and women who are being deployed are leaving behind children. Too many children are seeing one or both parents deployed into potentially hostile situations, leaving the remaining parents, grandparents, and other family members to care for them. I would appreciate information about what the

○ 1600 ASPEN COMMONS
ROOM 100
MIDDLETON, WI 53562
(608) 828-1200
(608) 829-1215 (TDD)

○ 517 EAST WISCONSIN AVENUE
ROOM 408
MILWAUKEE, WI 53202
(414) 276-7282

○ 401 5TH STREET
ROOM 410
WAUSAU, WI 54403
(715) 848-5660

○ 425 STATE STREET
ROOM 225
LA CROSSE, WI 54601
(608) 782-5585

○ 1640 MAIN STREET
GREEN BAY, WI 54302
(920) 465-7508

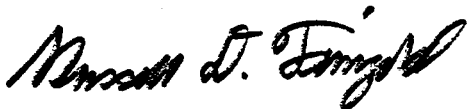
Letter to Secretary Rumsfeld, page 2

Department is doing to support these families by providing adequate child care and related support services, including the counseling services described above, for the children of deployed military personnel. Please also include a discussion of who is eligible for these services and the link for any Internet resources about available child care and related support services.

I look forward to working with you to provide appropriate support for our men and women in uniform and their families during this uncertain time. As you know, the prospect of war is harrowing for our military families, and they deserve our thanks and support.

Thank you in advance for your attention to these requests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Russell D. Feingold". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Russell D. Feingold
United States Senator